

Shaun Greaves
Development and Conservation Manager
North Herts Council
PO Box 7075
Manchester
M28 8JX

Grebe House
St Michael's Street
St Albans
AL3 4SN

01727 858 901
info@hmwt.org
hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Email: planning.control@north-herts.gov.uk

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Dear Mr Greaves

Application number: 25/2571/OP

Location: Growing Baldock development site

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved except for means of highway access into the development from the A505/Royston Road, North Road and Clothall Road for: up to 3,200 homes, up to 16ha of employment, waste and leisure infrastructure, a mixed use local centre, up to 1 secondary school, up to 2 x primary schools, up to 1 SEND school, health hub, green infrastructure (including parks, formal sports provision, play, habitat areas, informal open space and structural planting), internal street network, access junctions and railway crossing, public transport infrastructure, pedestrian/cycle network (including PRow diversions, active travel routes, mobility hubs and crossing of the railway), utilities and drainage infrastructure (including diversions of existing and provision of new infrastructure, pumping stations, sustainable drainage, primary substations, rising main/strategic sewer and renewable energy infrastructure), ground remodelling/earthworks and any necessary demolitions.

Thank you for your letter of 28 May re-consulting the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) on amendments to the above proposal. We welcome the additional information provided by the applicant, in particular the addenda to the Environmental Statement:

- Appendix 11.1 Corn Bunting Mitigation Strategy (On-site)
- Appendix 11.2 Corn Bunting Mitigation Strategy (Off-site)

This provides the clarity about the Corn Bunting mitigation and compensation strategy which we have been seeking, and we have no further comments at this time.

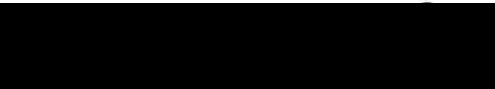
As previously mentioned, the local planning authority now needs to ensure that the strategy is legally and financially secured in perpetuity through conditions and/or a S. 106 agreement, both on the outline and subsequent reserved matters applications.

We ask that HMWT is consulted at the appropriate times so that we can advise on the delivery and monitoring of the strategy.

On this basis we withdraw our objection on Corn Bunting grounds. Our comments on swift nesting provision and biodiversity net gain made in previous responses still stand.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of these issues in further detail.

Yours sincerely

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Simon Marsh MBE BA MA MSc MRTPI
Planning and Policy Manager